

ELECTION LAWS OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Enacted March 1921
PASSED AT THE SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 14
AND SEPTEMBER 21, 1920



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CHAPTER I.

An Act extending the Suffrage to Women.

Section 1. All electoral privileges extended to males by authority of the provisions of the general statutes are extended to females. The provisions of the statute relating to the forfeiture of such privileges applicable to males shall be applicable to females. The provisions of said statutes and of this act relating to the admission of electors and to their participation in primaries, caucuses, conventions and elections and to the casting and counting of ballots, having reference to males shall be construed to include females. Proof of citizenship shall be required of all women, and admission to the privileges hereby conferred shall be otherwise upon the same conditions as are imposed upon males. All applications of women to have their names placed upon the list "to be made" prior to the date of the passage of this act shall be construed to have been made for the electoral privileges conferred by the provisions hereof.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Sept. 23, 1920.

CHAPTER 2.

An Act concerning Special Town Meetings.

Section 1. Special town meetings may be called in any town upon three days' notice, to take action fixing the time for warning, opening and holding annual town meetings, or electors' meetings to be held in October, 1920, provided no such special meeting shall fix an hour earlier than five o'clock in the forenoon, for opening nor later than four o'clock in the afternoon, for closing the ballot boxes for all officers to be balloted for at any of said meetings; and three days' notice of such annual town meeting or electors' meeting shall be sufficient.

Sec. 2. This act shall be in effect during the year 1920.

Sec 3. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Sept. 23, 1920.

CHAPTER 3.

An Act amending an Act concerning Meetings for Admission of Electors.

Section 1. Section 564 of the general statutes as amended by Chapter 42 of the Public Acts of 1919 is amended to read as follows:

The selectmen and town clerk of every town, except as otherwise specially provided by law, shall hold a session to examine the qualifications of electors and admit to the elector's oath those who shall be found qualified on the ninth day of October, 1920, from eight o'clock in the forenoon until nine o'clock in the afternoon in towns having a population of 10,000 or more according to the census of 1920; and from nine o'clock in the forenoon until five o'clock in the afternoon in all other towns, and may publicly adjourn said meeting from time to time if necessary until October 19, and unless all who are entered on the first list as "to be made" whose rights shall appear to have matured shall have been admitted or rejected by the selectmen and town clerk of any town before the 19th day of October, they shall be in session on said day for said purpose from eight o'clock in the forenoon until nine o'clock in the afternoon in towns having a population of 10,000 or more; and from nine o'clock in the forenoon until five o'clock in the afternoon in all other towns and not at any time after nine o'clock in said towns having a population of 10,000 or more or after five o'clock in any other towns; and if it appears that the rights of any person on the first list under the title "to be made" will mature after said 19th day of October and on or be-

fore the day of said electors' meeting, they shall meet on the day before said electors' meeting from nine o'clock in the forenoon until five o'clock in the afternoon, and not afterwards, for the purpose of admitting such persons and for no other purpose. They shall not have power to admit to the elector's oath on said day before the electors' meeting any applicant whose qualification of age or residence matured on or before said 19th day of October or who might have been naturalized on or before said day. The registrar shall write the names of those electors admitted on said day on the proper list, with their residence by street and number, if any, before twelve o'clock in the evening of said day before the electors' meeting. The selectmen and town clerk shall give notice of the time and places of their meetings by publication in a newspaper published in their town, if any, and by posting the same on the sign-post of said town at least three days before such meeting, but they shall not be in session in any town for the purpose of admitting electors except upon the days prescribed by law, and they shall not sit as a board for admission of electors after the time hereinbefore stated.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Sept. 23, 1920.

CHAPTER 4.

An Act repealing certain Statutes.

Section 1. Sections 256, 560, 573, 574 and 575 of the general statutes are repealed.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Sept. 23, 1920.

CHAPTER 5.

An Act concerning Additional Ballot Boxes and Election Officials.

Section 1. The selectmen of each town may provide for the electors' meeting to be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November, 1920, such additional ballot boxes and stub boxes as in the opinion of the registrars of voters of such town may be necessary to accommodate the voters of such town at said meeting; and said registrars may appoint such additional booth tenders, challengers, ballot clerks, checkers and box tenders as may be necessary.

Sec. 2. The registrars of voters of each town in which additional boxes are provided shall designate which voters shall cast their ballots in each box, provided such designation shall not be based upon the sex of the voter.

Sec. 3. The registrars of voters may print separate voting lists of men and women electors, provided there shall be no discrimination in the designation of ballot boxes or voting machines based upon the sex of the voter.

Sec. 4. Women's "to be made" lists may be printed separately.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Sept. 23, 1920.

CHAPTER 6.

An Act validating certain Acts.

Section 1. The admission of all electors in any town during the month of September, 1920, which was valid in all respects except that such admission was on a day other than that provided by law is hereby validated and confirmed, and the action of the selectmen and town clerk in any town in holding a session for the admission of electors on September 25, 1920, is hereby validated and confirmed in all respects as though said meeting had been warned and held according to law.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Sept. 23, 1920.

CHAPTER 7.

An Act amending an Act concerning
Nominations.

Section 1. Section 582 of the general statutes as amended by chapter 5 of the public acts of 1919 is amended to read as follows: All parties or organizations of electors nominating candidates for any office who are to be voted for by such ballots shall make such nominations at least three weeks prior to the date of the election at which such candidates are to be voted for, and whenever any party or political organization shall hold any convention for the nomination of candidates for office whose names are to appear upon the ballots authorized by chapter 35 of the general statutes, except such conventions as are held for the nomination of town, city or borough officers, or justices of the peace, the secretary of such convention or organization shall prepare an accurate list of the candidates nominated by such body, which list shall be certified by the chairman or presiding officer of such convention or organization, and the same shall be delivered to the secretary of the state by the chairman or secretary of such body not less than eighteen days prior to the time fixed by law for holding the election at

which the candidates nominated at such convention are to be voted for. Whenever any caucus, convention or meeting is held by the electors of any party or political organization for the nomination of town, city or borough officers, or justices of the peace, the secretary of such caucus, convention or meeting shall prepare an accurate list, printed or typewritten, of the nominations made at such caucus, convention or meeting, which list shall be certified to by the presiding officer of such caucus, convention or meeting, and delivered to the clerk of the town, city or borough, as the case may be, for which such nominations are made, who shall verify and correct the names of candidates appearing in such list in accordance with the voting list of such town, city or borough, indorse the same as having been so verified and corrected, and shall, at least eighteen days before the time for holding the election at which the nominees named at such convention are to be voted for, transmit the same to the secretary of the state; provided, in any town, city or borough having a charter any provision of which fixes the time for holding such convention or meeting for the nomination of town, city or borough officers at less than eighteen days, such convention or meeting shall be held and the names of the nominees transmitted as herein provided not

less than ten days before the time for holding such election. At the time that such certified list of nominees is transmitted by the town, city or borough clerk, as the case may be, to the secretary of the state, such town, city or borough clerk shall transmit an order for a number of ballots to be used at such election which shall equal the number of names upon the registry list last perfected preceding the date of such order, plus twenty per centum of all names thereon; provided, for town meetings and electors' meetings to be held in 1920 such clerk shall transmit an order for a number of ballots which shall equal double the number of names upon the registry list last perfected prior to September 1, 1920, plus ten per centum of such doubled number.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Sept. 23, 1920.

CHAPTER 8.

An Act concerning the Time during which the Polls shall remain open.

Section 1. At any electors' meeting at which candidates for national or state offices are to be balloted for the polls shall remain open from five-thirty o'clock in the forenoon until six o'clock in the afternoon, for the reception

of ballots; provided, in the town of Windham the selectmen may designate an hour for opening not earlier than five-thirty o'clock in the forenoon and an hour not later than eight o'clock in the afternoon for closing said polls.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Sept. 23, 1920.

CHAPTER 9.

An Act amending an Act concerning Who may be admitted Electors.

Section 1. Section 535 of the general statutes is amended to read as follows: Every citizen of the United States who shall have attained the age of twenty-one years, who shall have resided in the United States for a term of five years next preceding, in this state for a term of one year next preceding, and in the town in which he may offer himself to be admitted to the privileges of an elector at least six months next preceding the time he may so offer himself, and who at the time of offering himself shall be able to read in the English language any article of the constitution or any section of the statutes of the state, and shall sustain a good moral character, shall, on taking the oath prescribed by law, be an

elector. Any new or additional qualification herein imposed shall not be required of any person who has heretofore been admitted to the privilege of an elector in this state.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Sept. 23, 1920.

CHAPTER 10.

An Act amending an Act concerning Corrected List in Town Clerk's Office.

Section 1. Section 555 of the general statutes as amended by chapter sixty-six of the public acts of 1919 is amended to read as follows: Said registrars shall, on or before the second Monday preceding said electors' meeting, deposit in the town clerk's office the corrected list arranged as provided by chapter thirty-four of the general statutes, and certified by them to be correct, and shall retain a sufficient number of copies to be used by them at said meeting, for the purpose of checking the names of those who vote. They shall place on said corrected list, in the order provided in section 548 of the general statutes, those electors who have been admitted by the board for the admission of electors and, under the title "to be made" those only on the first list whose

qualifications of age or residence, either for admission or naturalization, appear not to have matured at the last session of said board. Said list deposited in the town clerk's office shall be carefully preserved in said office, for public inspection, and any elector may make copies thereof.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Sept. 23, 1920.

CHAPTER II.

An Act amending an Act concerning Who may be Registered.

Section 1. Section 543 of the general statutes is amended to read as follows: Every person who will have resided in this state one year and in the town six months next preceding an elector's meeting, and who has been admitted or previously registered as an elector in such town, including those admitted under the provisions of sections 573, 574 and 575 of the general statutes, shall, unless he has forfeited the privileges of an elector by conviction of crime, be entitled to be registered, and after such registration to vote therein. But no person shall be deemed to have lost his residence in any town by reason of his absence

therefrom in the service of this state or of the United States; provided, this section shall not be construed to exclude from registration any person on the ground that he cannot read who was duly admitted an elector of this state before October, 1855.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Sept. 23, 1920.

CHAPTER 12.

An Act concerning Electors.

Section 1. Section 545 of the general statutes as amended by chapter 22 of the public acts of 1919 is amended to read as follows: The registrars of every town, unless otherwise specially provided by law, shall, at least twenty-six days before the electors' meetings to be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November, 1920, and biennially thereafter, complete a correct list of all electors in their town, or the voting districts therein, who shall be entitled to vote in such town or voting districts, at such meetings, and shall place on such list under the title "to be made" the names of those persons by whom or in whose behalf the claim is made to either registrar, in the manner hereinafter provided, that they will be entitled to be made electors in such town on

or before the day of such meeting. The residence of such person shall be written on said list opposite his name and sufficiently described for identification, giving the street and number, if any; and the name of no person shall be placed on any list under the title "to be made" after five o'clock in the afternoon of the Tuesday following the first Monday in October; nor shall the name of any person be registered except in the town or district wherein he resides. In towns having less than five thousand inhabitants the claim for registration under the title "to be made" may be made either orally or in writing. In towns having more than five thousand inhabitants no person shall be registered under the title "to be made" unless he, or some elector residing in such town in his behalf, shall make written application to the registrars, stating his name, his residence in that town by street and number, if any, otherwise by school districts, the date when he became a resident of this state, the date when he became a resident of the town, and if the applicant was not born a citizen of the United States, the date when he became a resident thereof, *and that he has attained the age of twenty-one years.* Either of the registrars may take copies of the application, and they shall preserve the original

for use before the board of selectmen and town clerk when sitting for the admission of electors.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Sept. 23, 1920.

CHAPTER 13.

An Act amending an Act concerning Certification of Names of Convicts to Selectmen.

Section 1. Section 552 of the general statutes is amended to read as follows: The clerk of every court of this state having criminal jurisdiction shall annually, between the tenth and twentieth days of October, make a list of all persons, who, during the year preceding said tenth day of October, have been convicted in said court of any crime for which the privileges of an elector are forfeited, and shall annually furnish, before the twenty-first day of October, to the selectmen of the towns in which such convicted persons resided at the time of their conviction, a list of their names, with the date of their conviction and the crimes which such persons have been convicted, and the selectmen and registrars of such towns shall compare the same with the lists of voters

then upon their registry lists, and, after due notice to the persons named shall erase such names from the registry lists in their respective towns or voting districts; and any person who shall procure himself or another to be registered after having been disfranchised by conviction of crime, and any person who shall vote at any electors' meeting after having forfeited his privileges by conviction of crime, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars and imprisoned not more than one year in the county jail. The provisions of this section shall not apply in the case of persons whose forfeited electoral privileges have been restored by the general assembly.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Sept. 23, 1920.

CHAPTER 14.

An Act authorizing Towns to borrow Money for Elections.

Section 1. The selectmen of any town, the mayor and common council of any city and the warden and burgesses of any borough may borrow such sums of money as may be necessary to provide proper machinery and facilities for voting at town meetings and electors'

meetings to be held in 1920 and may give notes therefor.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Sept. 23, 1920.

CHAPTER 15.

An Act concerning Women Voters.

Section 1. Any woman who prior to the passage of this act shall have qualified as a voter under the provisions of section 573 of the general statutes, shall, if otherwise qualified, as to residence, be entitled to vote at any town or electors' meeting in the town in which she resides; and the registrars of voters shall add the names of such women to the voting list.

Sec. 2. Section 573 of the general statutes is hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Sept. 23, 1920.

CHAPTER 16.

An Act concerning Record of Applicants.

Section 1. Section 551 of the general statutes is amended to read as follows: The reg-

istrars of voters shall keep in permanent form a record of all persons who shall apply at any session of the selectmen and town clerk for admission as voters, showing the name, residence, occupation, place of birth, and *that the applicant has attained the age of twenty-one years. Any woman who shall have married subsequent to her admission as an elector may vote in the name appearing on the list prior to the date of said marriage upon satisfactory proof to the moderator as to her identity and the registrars of voters shall correct the voting list and record to conform to the provisions of this section, and the record required by this section shall be filed in the office of the town clerk.*

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Sept. 23, 1920.

CHAPTER 17.

An Act amending an Act concerning Admission of Electors in Waterbury.

Section 1. Section 570 of the general statutes is amended to read as follows: The selectmen and town clerk of the town of Waterbury shall hold sessions to examine the qualifications of electors and admit to the

elector's oath those who shall be found qualified, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from nine o'clock in the forenoon until eight o'clock in the afternoon, on the third week before the biennial town meeting of said town; and said selectmen and town clerk shall hold a meeting for said purpose from eight o'clock in the forenoon until nine o'clock in the afternoon on the ninth day of October, 1920, and may adjourn the same from day to day, for the same hours, until October 19, 1920, inclusive.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Sept. 23, 1920.

CHAPTER 18.

An Act amending an Act concerning Assistant Registrars of Voters.

Section 1. Section 541 of the general statutes is amended to read as follows: Each registrar in any town may from time to time appoint and employ one or more assistants who shall assist the registrars in the performance of their duties as required by chapters 34 and 35 of the general statutes as amended, on election day and the thirty-five days preceding. The selectmen of the several towns may employ such clerical assistance as they may deem necessary in the performance of their duties in admitting electors in the year

1920 for the town meetings and electors' meetings. The provisions of this section shall apply to any town, city or borough, any charter provision or by-law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Sept. 23, 1920.

CHAPTER 19.

An Act concerning the Sessions of Registrars to perfect and revise Lists.

Section 1. Section 548 of the general statutes as amended by chapter 53 of the public acts of 1919 is amended to read as follows: Said registrars shall be in session for the purpose of perfecting such list on the Tuesday after the first Monday of October, 1920, continuously from nine o'clock in the forenoon until five o'clock in the afternoon at some suitable place in their respective districts or towns, of which notice shall be given by publication in the newspaper, if any is published in said town, or by posting on a sign-post therein, at least five days before said session. In the cities of Hartford, New Haven, New Britain, Bridgeport and Meriden, and in the town, city and center school district of Waterbury, and in the

town of Orange the registrar shall enter the names on the official lists by the street and number of the house, when the houses are numbered, and not alphabetically, so that there shall be entered on the list first the street, avenue, road or alley; second, the number of the house or residence in numerical order; and third, the resident electors in such house or residence in alphabetical order, and those electors, if any, who cannot be so registered shall be registered alphabetically. Except in said cities, districts and towns the names on said lists shall be arranged alphabetically. Said lists shall be completed, certified to by said registrars and deposited in the town clerk's office at least twenty-six days before the electors' meeting, for public inspection; a certified copy of the list for each district, where there are voting districts, shall on the same day be posted by them at the place in such district where the registrars meet, and in towns where there are no voting districts a copy of said list shall be posted in such places as may have been designated in a town meeting. Each registrar shall keep a copy of said list for his use in revision. Said registrars shall give notice in said lists of the times and places at which they will hold one or more sessions within the next twelve days for the revision and correction of said lists, and shall also give notice of such

times and places by publication in a newspaper in said town or by posting the same on the sign-post therein at least five days before the first of said sessions. The number of sessions shall be fixed by the selectmen of each town.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Sept. 23, 1920.

An Act amending an Act concerning the Making of New Voters.

(This act takes the place of Sec. 571 as printed in the 1919 pamphlet on Election and Naturalization Laws.)

Section 571 of the general statutes is amended to read as follows: The selectmen and town clerk of every town, except as otherwise provided by law, shall hold a session to examine the qualifications of electors and admit to the elector's oath those who shall be found qualified on Saturday of the third week before the annual town meeting held in any town in 1919, and biennially thereafter, from nine o'clock in the forenoon until eight o'clock in the afternoon, unless all on the list "to be made" have been admitted or rejected before that time; notice of such meeting shall be given in the manner provided in section 564 of the

general statutes. They shall not have power to admit to the elector's oath on said day any person whose name is not on the list "to be made," as provided in section 559 of the general statutes. The registrars shall add to the lists prepared for the last preceding electors' meetings in their several towns the names of those persons who are admitted electors under the provisions of this section and sections 564 and 569 of the general statutes, and such lists, with the names added as herein provided, shall be the registry lists which shall be used at the annual town meetings held in the several towns in the year 1919 and biennially thereafter. Approved March 19, 1919.

An Act amending an Act concerning the Making of Voters in Towns of Less than Ten Thousand Inhabitants.

(This act takes the place of Sec. 572 as printed in the 1919 pamphlet on Election and Naturalization Laws.)

Section 572 of the general statutes is amended to read as follows: The selectmen and town clerk of every town containing less than ten thousand inhabitants shall hold a session to examine the qualifications of the electors and admit to the elector's oath those who

shall be found qualified on Saturday of the third week before the annual town meeting held in any such town in the year 1920, and biennially thereafter, from nine o'clock in the forenoon until eight o'clock in the afternoon, unless all on the list "to be made" shall have been admitted or rejected before that time. Notice of such meeting shall be given in the manner provided in section 564 of the general statutes. No person whose name is not on the list "to be made" shall be admitted to the elector's oath. The names of those admitted shall be added to and become part of the registry list of such town in the same manner as provided in section 571 of the general statutes. Approved March 19, 1919.

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